

Hi Mr and Ms. DOER people,

I am writing in response to the hearings that you are presently having in order to try and regulate the state's renewable energy regulations governing biomass fuels. I'm sorry that I was unable to attend the hearing two days ago @ HCC in Holyoke MA.

There was a time in the past when burning trees (wood) for power would have been a viable option for the state. Right now, the U.S. has about 2% of the original trees that were here when the Pilgrims came over here on the Mayflower. 98% of our forests have been cut down. It would have been okay to do this back when we had some of that 98% of our forests that we've cut down.

Let's face it, like Maine who went ahead with this proposal and built the biomass (trees to trash) plant, they ran out of trees and went to trash. Trash will emit many more air pollutants than burning wood will.

I realize that because of the Asian Long-Horned beetle infestation in our state, we will need some way to dispose of the "infested" trees. This is a poor way to do that.

As your most recent air quality study has indicated, burning wood is probably even dirtier than burning coal. So let's not do it. Burning trash is even dirtier.

The cleanest fuels would be the alternatives, like solar, wind, tidal, steam, thermal and dams.

The next cleanest will be natural gas, oil and then coal.

In short, we should NOT be licensing any biomass energy plants in this state. In fact, I believe that you should be recommending to both the Governor and the legislature that we ban biomass (trees to trash burning) plants to generate power.

I also would find it hard to recommend nuclear plants because there is no long term solution for storage of the nuclear waste. It presents a tempting target for terrorists. Additionally, the various power companies would require excessive subsidies to overcome their fear of being sued to death by the anti-nuclear zealots who are out there. The power companies would like to be compensated (by the state or federal government) for these lawsuits or maybe just indemnified by the government so that they cannot be sued.

I also find it objectionable that the group trying to build the Russell Biomass plant is willing to totally **ignore** public opinion in this area - go ahead build their plant (in defiance because they have already gone too far) and sell th energy out of state. Please, do not discourage these people, please appeal to both the governor and legislature to **kill** these proposals!!!

Other than that, you are doing a fine job and keep up your good work. Thank you for your recommendation to the governor and legislature that they kill all consideration of Biomass plants in this state.

Sincerely,

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